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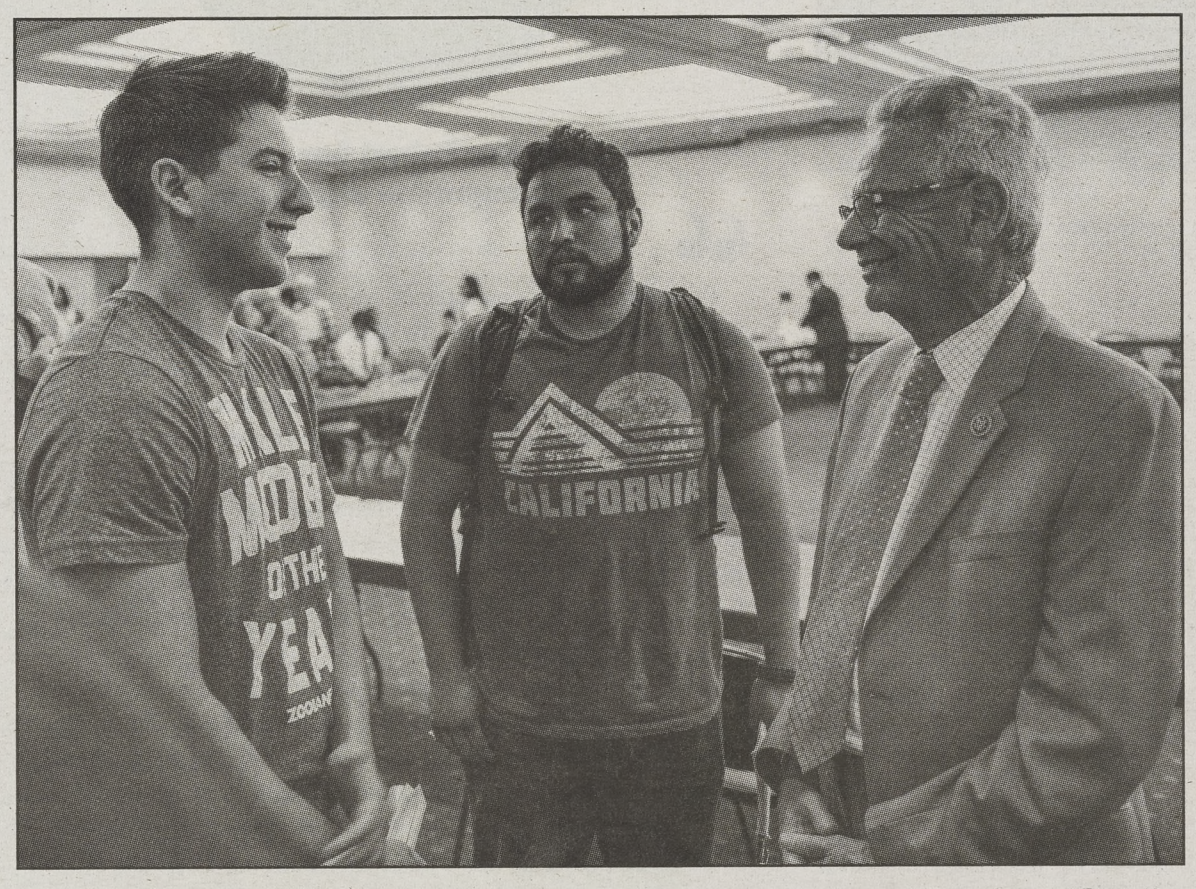
Congressman condemns deportation



Karen Sawyer | Daily 49er

Victor Alvarez, left, whose father was held by a CSULB police officer for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport, meets with Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach, after the community roundtable and forum on immigration hosted by the congressman in the Walter Pyramid at Cal State Long Beach April 25.

Long Beach's representative blamed split families on Congress' failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

By Ariana Sawyer
News Editor

Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach, said the recent incident where José Alvarez was deported after being detained in the Cal State Long Beach University Police substation should have never happened in a roundtable and forum on immigration the congressman hosted Monday.

"I'm in a climate in the Congress where a lot of people want to duck this issue," Lowenthal said. "We know that a lot of people are being deported who should never be deported."

The roundtable speakers, who met inside the Walter Pyramid, included Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, CSULB President Jane Close Conoley, Associated Students, Inc. President José Salazar and student representatives of various cultural organizations on campus, among others.

"If you had held this three months ago, I would have just been beaming about all the wonderful things that we do and all the great successes that we have," Conoley said. "But it's not three months ago. It's today."

She said the university is currently seeking outside consultation and going through a process of self-reflection to be sure the "policies really do match our aspirations," and identified the need for simplified comprehensive immigration reform.

"Because [immigration law] is amazingly complex and interpreted in so many different ways depending on where you live, it puts all of us in some danger of not behaving in ways that match our dreams," Conoley said.

CSULB's Officer I. Sanchez detained Alvarez for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to come and pick him up after Sanchez pulled Alvarez over for a broken headlight Feb. 21.

see **DEPORT**, page 2

Porch Party Records plans to leave the stoop

Long Beach-based independent label offers fresh music, cold beer and what else? Porch parties.

By Lauren Torres
Staff Writer

In a packed neighborhood right off of Fourth Street sits the house that Porch Party Records, an independent record label, operates out of. The two-story house, complete with a non-working Jacuzzi instead of a bathtub, does not stand out with its wooden paneling, brick exterior and simple lawn. It's the revolving wheel of artists, the house shows and the community of musicians relaxing on the porch that will make you do a double take.

I pull up and am immediately greeted by musician Rudy De Anda, 27, who leads my car and I to the parking spot that Casey Terrazas, founder of Porch Party Records, has kept empty in an area notorious for terrible parking.

"I guess I'm the welcoming party," De Anda said with a sleepy and congenial drawl that blends itself seamlessly into his music, a range of tranquilly-strummed guitar, sometimes latin-infused songs.

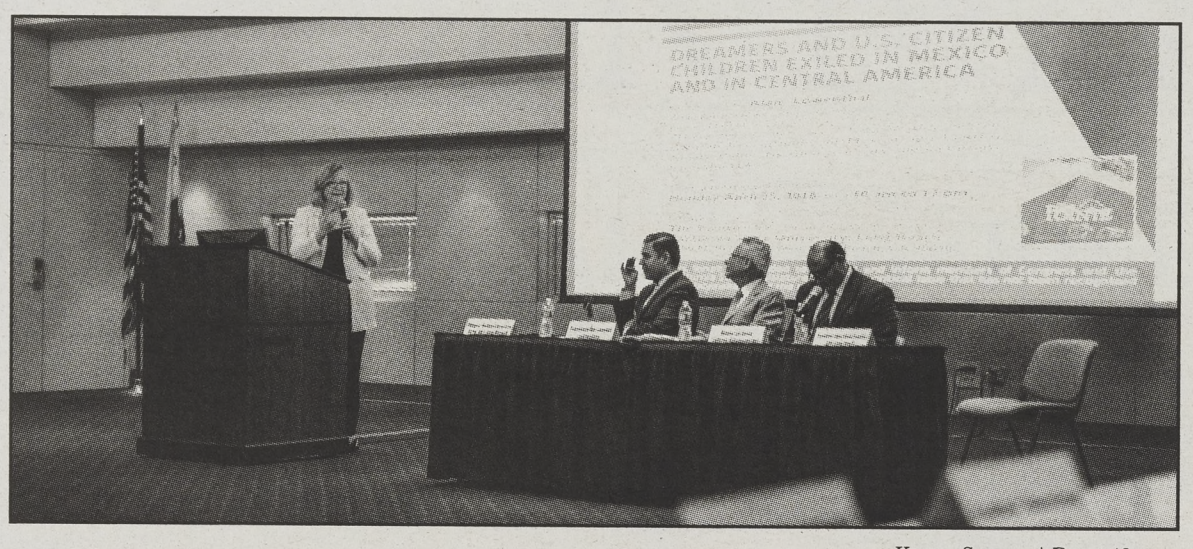
The musicians of Porch Party Records, whose music styles vary but remain unmistakably indie-sounding, are doing exactly as their name states; hanging out on the porch. Cigarettes in hand, talking among themselves, they are relaxed enough for my presence to be only a mild disturbance in their cloud of friendship.

Rachel Rufrano, 28, De Anda and Joel Jasper, 25, sit in worn-looking lawn chairs and are without the stiffness that comes with first greetings. Later, musician J.P. Bendzinski, 27, who spent the previous night driving home from a Seattle show, joins them on the porch. Before this interview is up he will be whisked away to work his job as a bartender at Que Sera. For Bendzinski, the word "busy" doesn't begin to cover it.

"Why do you think J.P. is in 10 bands?" Jasper later said, to emphasize the struggle of being an artist. "Why the [heck] am I in five? Because, you know, you might make a hundred bucks here, a hundred bucks there."

When Terrazas, 34, joins us, he invites me in for a quick tour of the infamous house that's hosted countless nights of music making. In the daytime it looks like the average musician's

see **PORCH**, page 4



Karen Sawyer | Daily 49er

President Jane Close Conoley speaks at a community roundtable and forum on immigration hosted by Rep. Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach, in the Walter Pyramid at Cal State Long Beach April 25.

DEPORT

continued from page 1

Andrea Donado, a community organizer with the Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization, called for all those in attendance to do whatever they could to support the attempt to bring Alvarez back and reunite him with his family, as well to support legislation that would prevent this from happening again at any other university.

After the roundtable, the congressman met with Victor, Alvarez' son, and Alexis Teodoro, the Southwest regional organizer for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, who said his organization may provide Alvarez with legal representation.

"Your dad is just another example of someone [who] was caught up in a totally broken system that really now discriminates against people who've been here for many years, who are trying to do better, trying to give back to the country and yet are caught in this cycle," Lowenthal said to Victor.

In the meeting, Lowenthal said he would contribute to bringing Alvarez back by helping draft a letter to the University Police demanding to know under what authority CSULB Officer Sanchez had acted on behalf of ICE to arrest Alvarez and hold him for ICE to come and deport.

Lowenthal also said he would help to be an advocate to Conoley on behalf of the Alvarez family.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that CSULB is able to lead the way in making sure that all colleges in California become sanctuary campuses, where they would refuse to cooperate with ICE to deport students.

Lowenthal, who said he could not say what "sanctuary campus" would entail, said he was open to whatever students wanted it to mean, whether the term applied to students only or any undocumented person on campus.

The roundtable was aimed at educating elected officials about the critical issues facing undocumented students and U.S. students whose parents are deported.

LB Mayor Robert Garcia on his immigration experience

"I'm a pretty good example of what can happen when you allow immigrants in this country the opportunity to learn, to get an education, to give back to their country and to contribute. I'm just like any other immigrant out there that got a chance, and I feel fortunate that I was given an opportunity to come to this country.

I came when I was five years old. I grew up low income. I lived in portable housing. I lived in government subsidized housing for parts of my life — eight of us usually in a small apartment, bouncing around different cities — not much different from a lot of immigrant families.

And I give thanks to this university for kind of welcoming me, being the first of my family to go to school, go to college, get an education. I ended up [at Cal State Long Beach] in some ways by accident. I was a young kid and an immigrant.

I did not become a U.S. citizen until I was a student at Cal State Long Beach. It was while I was here that I actually gained citizenship."

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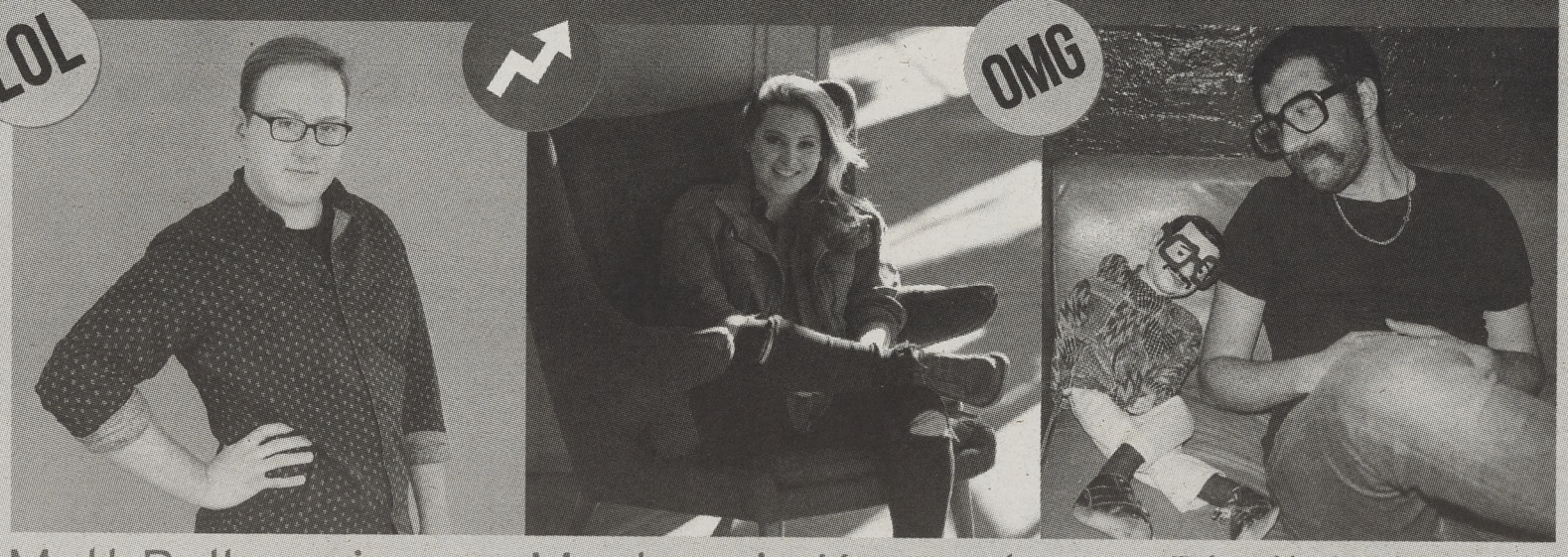
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UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

ON THE ISSUES:

HOMELAND SECURITY

By Grester Celis-Acosta
Staff Writer

Here's what the candidates have to say about homeland security.

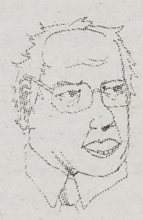
THE DEMOCRATS

Hilary Clinton

Hillary Clinton, D, believes that the United States should support its NATO allies and examine the Syrian refugees. Clinton also believes that the U.S. should keep the Syrian refugees stating that the U.S. is a country of resolve not fear. The former secretary of state is also a supporter of the Patriot Act. In addition, she promises to never privatize the Veterans Affairs administration.

"This [Syrian refugee crisis] is a humanitarian catastrophe. The U.S. has to support our allies in Europe. We have to provide financial support. We have to provide the NATO support to back up the mission that is going on. And we have to take properly vetted refugees ourselves."

Bernie Sanders



Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., believes that the National Security Administration surveillance system should be shut down, and is also opposed to the Patriot Act. Sanders believes that the Department of Defense should get a budget cut of $18 billion to pay 55 percent of college tuition. The 74-year-old senator believes that Veterans Affairs should be strengthened as opposed to being privatized.

"Well, what exists right now is that virtually every telephone call in this country ends up in a file at the NSA. That is unacceptable to me. But it's not just government surveillance. I think the government is involved in our emails; is involved in our websites. Corporate America is doing it as well. If we are a free country, we have the right to be free. Yes, we have to defend ourselves against terrorism, but there are ways to do that without impinging on our constitutional rights and our privacy rights."

This article is part of a weekly series informing students of where the candidates stand on the issues for the 2016 presidential elections.

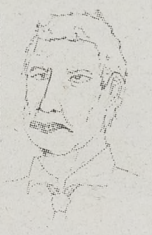
THE REPUBLICANS

Donald Trump

Donald Trump, R, is a strong believer that followers of Islam fundamentally hate the United States. He believes that waterboarding should be reinstated as an interrogation method and that the government should surveil mosques but not close them down. Trump also said that New Jersey Muslims celebrated after the 9/11 attacks.

"Well, we have to be strong. You know, they don't use waterboarding over there; they use chopping off people's heads. They use drowning people. I don't know if you've seen with the cages, where they put people in cages and they drown them in the ocean and they lift out the cage. And we're talking about waterboarding. I would bring it back, yes. I think waterboarding is peanuts compared to what they'd do to us, what they're doing to us, what they did to James Foley when they chopped off his head. That's a whole different level and I would absolutely bring back interrogation and strong interrogation."

John Kasich



Unlike members of the Democratic party, John Kasich, R-Ohio, is against the U.S. allowing Syrian refugees. He also believes that $100 billion should be spent by the U.S. to rebuild the military. He also wants to expand the veterans' healthcare program and start a coalition to fight ISIS in Syria. Kasich also believes that drones should be operated by the Pentagon and not the CIA.

"I would be working to get other countries to jump in and join us. I don't want to go alone. Let me tell you what I would do. Firstly, I would have supported the rebels in Syria that were in there to topple Assad. Secondly, I would have a coalition of other countries, including us, on the ground beginning to degrade and destroy ISIS, because, as you begin to do it, that whole caliphate beings to fall apart."

Ted Cruz

Ted Cruz, R-Texas, believes that the military should increase its amount of troops to 1.4 million soldiers. He also believes that waterboarding isn't a form of torture. Cruz says that American citizens who join ISIS should forfeit their citizenship. Cruz also said he will shred the Iranian nuclear deal on his first day in office.

"Well, under the definition of torture, no, it's [waterboarding's] not. Under the law, torture is excruciating pain that is equivalent to losing organs and systems, so under the definition of torture, it is not. It is enhanced interrogation, it is vigorous interrogation, but it does not meet the generally recognized definition of torture."

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MATH	G120	Trigonometry	MATH	111	Precalculus Trigonometry
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MATH	G160	Introduction to Statistics	HDEV	250	Elementary Statistics in Social and Behavioral Sciences
MATH	G170	Precalculus	MATH	117	Precalculus Mathematics
MATH	G180	Calculus 1	MATH	122	Calculus I
MATH	G185	Calculus 2	MATH	123	Calculus II
MUS	G101	History & Appreciation Of Music	MUS	100	Introduction to Music
PHIL	G100	Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL	100	Intro to Philosophy
PHIL	G115	Logic and Critical Thinking	PHIL	170	Critical Reasoning
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PORCH

continued from page 1

apartment, with instruments strewn across the living room, pieces of eclectic art on the walls and friends casually taking up space. A quick peek into the rooms of the artists reveals a peaceful, clean room from Rufrano, a disheveled one from Jasper and an impeccably tidy one from Terrazas, whose self-description of being "really OCD" is apparent in the made-up bed, neatly hung up posters and shelves of labeled music from his artists.

In one corner of the room sits a flat-screen TV, hooked up to a laptop, where he runs the business aspects of Porch Party – at least for half of the year. Terrazas, a freelance technical director and audiovisual project manager by day, travels so much that he operates the label from hotel rooms the other half of the year.

A run-down of his current schedule—one week in San Francisco, then L.A., Anaheim and New Orleans—is enough to wonder what kind of magic Terrazas runs on to do it all. He speaks of his day job with a sense of pride, but when the conversation switches to Porch Party Records the glow in his eyes and warmth in his voice are impossible to miss.

"They make such good music that it's impacted my life just living in Long Beach, hearing them play," Terrazas said. "No one's a rock star, they all have to wake up at 5:30 a.m. cause they're baristas or they're servers. It's real, they do it because they love it, and that impacted me so much."

Terrazas, who earned a bachelor's degrees in both Biblical Studies and Christian Ministries, up and left his old life as a pastor and speaker one day. He eventually made his way to Long Beac , a place he felt at home. He soon immersed himself in the local music scene and brought artists together at his first apartment, known as the original Porch, until an intense bout of bed bugs forced him and his fellow musicians to move.

In response, the label's band Forest of Tongue wrote their album "Fancy Itch," with the experimental and upbeat song, "Gummy Gremlins," that describes the tiny bugs as "always laughing in the background."

Lauren Torres | Daily 49er

Just another day on The Porch: from left to right, artist Rudy De Anda, label founder Casey Terrazas, artist Joel Jasper, and artist Rachel Rufrano sit together on the porch that brings music and friends together.

As passionate and organized as Terrazas is, the idea to start a label actually came about in May of 2014 from Jim Ritson, owner of wine bar 4th St. Vine. Ritson heard Jasper's solo dream-pop song "Summer Body" and offhandedly commented that someone needed to put it on vinyl.

"Me and Casey just looked at each other, like, 'what does that mean?'" Jasper said, recalling the moment.

> "My whole life made sense in that one moment, when he said that. It made sense. The next morning I was Googling how to start a record label.
> *-Casey Terrazas, Porch Party Records founder*

"My whole life made sense in that one moment, when he said that," Terrazas said. "It made sense. The next morning I was Googling how to start a record label."

What followed was a brainstorming of names — Jasper finally said "Porch Party" and it stuck — and label logos, of which the finished result was a collaborative effort between friends. The label's first release, Jasper's solo album "Summer Body," debuted in September of 2014 with a live show accompanied by Rufrano, whose soft-crooning voice is reminiscent of Jenny Lewis.

Now, nearly two years later, with 12 groups under their charge- including Litronix, an electric-sounding, synth-infused band featuring famed artist Avi Buffalo- the label is in anything but their terrible twos. With the forthcoming addition of two more bands, ongoing studio recording, touring and an upcoming feature in a documentary with Netflix aspirations, Terrazas and Co. could be on the cusp of blowing up.

If you ask how they met each other the group go back and forth about the details, cutting each other off or finishing each other's sentences like siblings, but it's generally agreed that their mutual love of music brought them together. Bendzinski, joined the group after offering to help record music and play the keyboard for Jasper's band. De Anda, Bendzinski's bandmate, soon followed. Rufrano and Terrazas met through a mutual friend, the first one he made after moving to Long Beach.

The group of friends all regularly collaborate on marketing, music videos and photo shoots, hopping in and out of each other's projects as needed. Behind individual ambitions is a simple desire to help out. It's why Jasper once accompanied De Anda on tour, and drove most of the time, for no reason other than to hear his friend's music.

"I think that's at the heart of Porch Party," Rufrano said. "It's not just wanting to do well with your own music, but wanting all of your friends to do well." Rufrano, who is currently recording her next album with Bendzinski, finds that recording with friends makes communication easier.

"I understand what you're into and I understand all your songs," Bendzinski said.

Despite the group's symbiotic nature, competition isn't entirely out of the question.

"Only healthy [competition]," Rufrano said with a small smile. ""It's a combination of 'I'm so jealous' and 'I'm so proud' at the same time."

"J.P. just keeps getting better at guitar," De Anda said. "I try to keep up with him. It's [really] tough."

"It's like a team," Bendzinski said. "If your other teammates are killing it, you'd want to kill it too."

The circle extends well beyond Porch Party artists. Terrazas, who sees an estimated 400 live bands a year, connects with bands from other cities regularly. Porch Party will host shows with guest bands, give them a place to stay, and sometimes help with their music. Such as with Nico Yaryan, a band that sings of lost love in rhythmically seducing beats, signed to Partisan Records that practices at the Porch with the help of Bendzinski on guitar and Jasper on bass.

"We bring in people we think will help the [Porch Party] community," Jasper said.

When considering the difficulties of their musician lifestyles, the group pauses, unsure where to begin.

"Paying rent," Bendzinsky said.

"Surviving," Jasper said.

As for the future, Terrazas hopes to continue operating under the idea of being the "anti-label," a label in favor of its artists, that artists are happy to work with, and that makes decisions based on creativity as opposed to money.

"I want to be the biggest label in the world," Terrazas said.

De Anda has aspirations to take Porch Party international someday. De Anda's music is already available in South America.

While the future success of Porch Party still sits somewhere ahead in the distance, the group considers what changes fame and money might bring to their tight-knit collective.

"I'm not sharing tour buses with J.P.," De Anda said.

"Yeah there's going to be some money fights, some girlfriend fights, something's going to happen," Terrazas said.

It's clear, as the group animatedly discuss who will die in what sensationalized celebrity fashion, that the familial dynamic of Porch Party records isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Musician Rudy De Anda will be performing live at L.A.'s Regent Theatre on May 5, while Litronix, currently on tour, will head back for a show in Long Beach April 29 at 4th St. Vine. Porch Party bands, music and information can be found at porchpartyrecords.com

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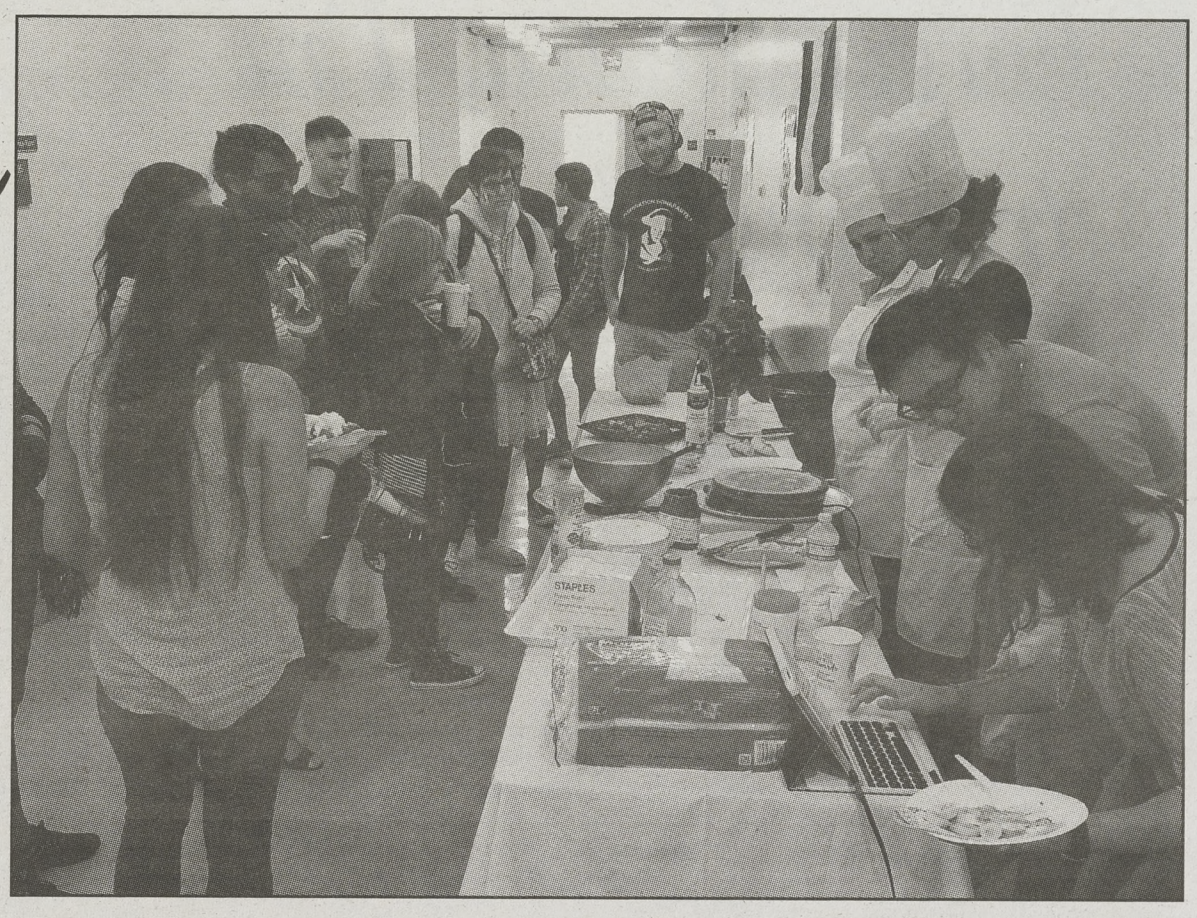
J'adore le Francophonie



KATHERINE LEMUS | DAILY 49ER

Above, students at Francophonie on Saturday in line as they watch their crepes being freshly made in front of them. Below, Jo Tatro set up a presentation for students to view the places she has visited while studying abroad in France.

The Francophonie festival allowed students to learn about French culture and language.

BY KATHERINE LEMUS
Staff Writer

As the aroma of freshly made crepes filled the hallway of the Academic Services building, students learned about French history through poster boards and student presentations as they walked around the Francophonie festival held by the French Club on Saturday.

The festival was a collaboration between the Cal State Long Beach French Department, Teaching Associate program and the Department of Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literature.

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, known as Francophonie to the public, is a cultural festival that is an internationally known organization. Francophonie represents countries and regions that speak French.

The Francophonie featured a crepe station where students could get a freshly made crepe, French music, an international luncheon and an induction ceremony for students being inducted into the French Honors Society.

Along the walls were posters depicting fun French facts such as the geographical location of France, also known as the Hexagon, as well as the history of the Louvre, the world's largest museum located in Paris. The posters were accompanied by presentations from the students in the French program that featured their experiences studying abroad in France.

Cedric Joseph Oliva, the language program coordinator of RGRLL, has made Francophonie an annual event for the past four years.

"The Francophonie was created originally to protect, preserve and push countries to keep on using the French language but also celebrates diversity, and only recently, in the last 15 years, has Francophonie been celebrated throughout the world," Oliva said.

Oliva said he hopes to make Francophonie larger in the future and to show students the many different countries that speak French around the world.

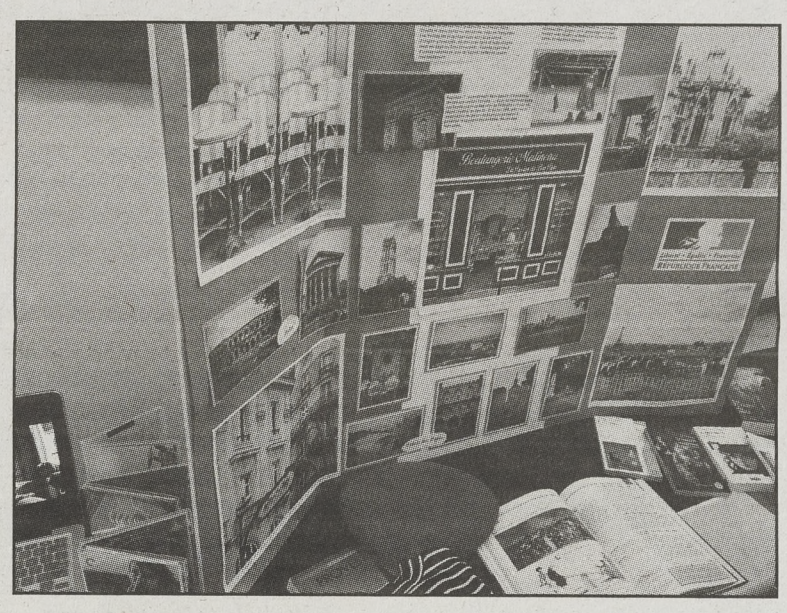
"We had students and professors come from Santa Barbara last year and I'm hoping Francophonie here on campus becomes an epicenter of French culture in California," Oliva said.

Aparna Nayak, the program director and French advisor at CSULB, also tries to find ways to spread student's passion for the language and the culture of French.

"Francophonie is important for many different reasons such as students bonding and supporting each other, but also it's our opportunity to reach out to the rest of the campus community and outside community," Nayak said.

The Francophonie event is a public event that brings in students from the community, including from local high schools.

Kristian Farrokh-Siar, a French instructor and adviser for the French Honors Society at Los Alamitos High School, attended the event along with her high school honors students on Saturday.



"We do this every year, try to spread their love of French and the Francophonie is a great platform for that," Farrokh-Siar said. "Dr. Oliva and I are old friends so when he started Francophonie I thought it was a great idea for my students to be exposed to the different French speaking countries that exist."

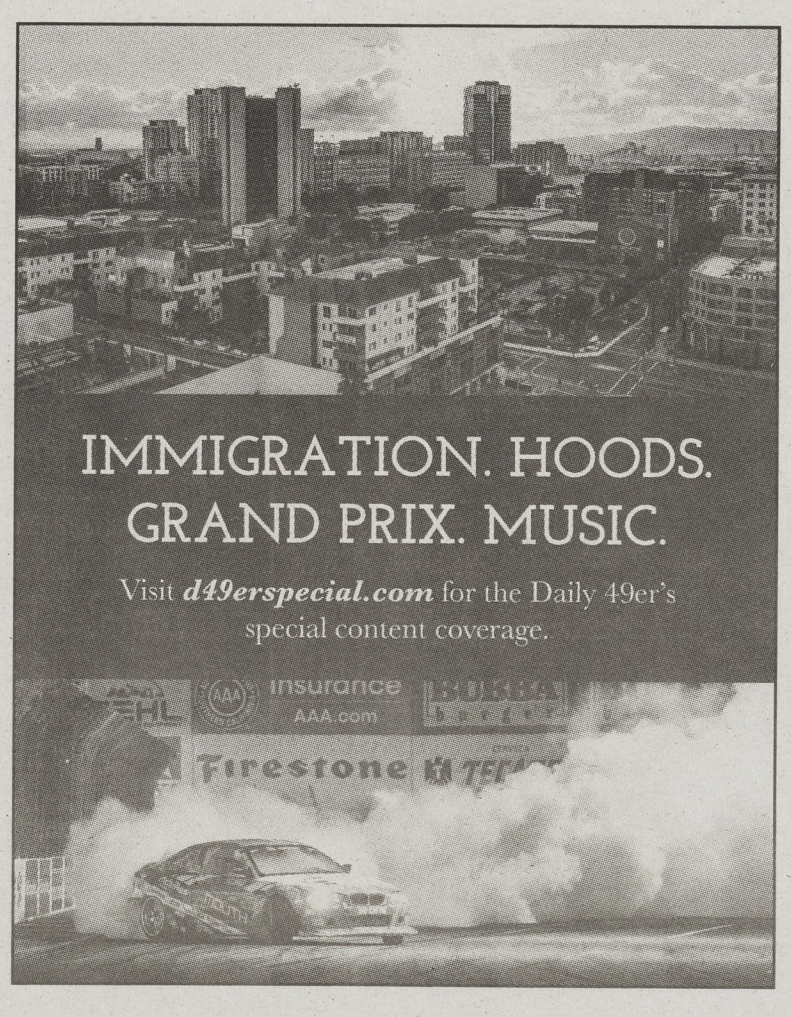
Farrokh-Siar further said that attending Francophonie helps her students with their understanding of the French language to university students visiting from France or different French-speaking countries.

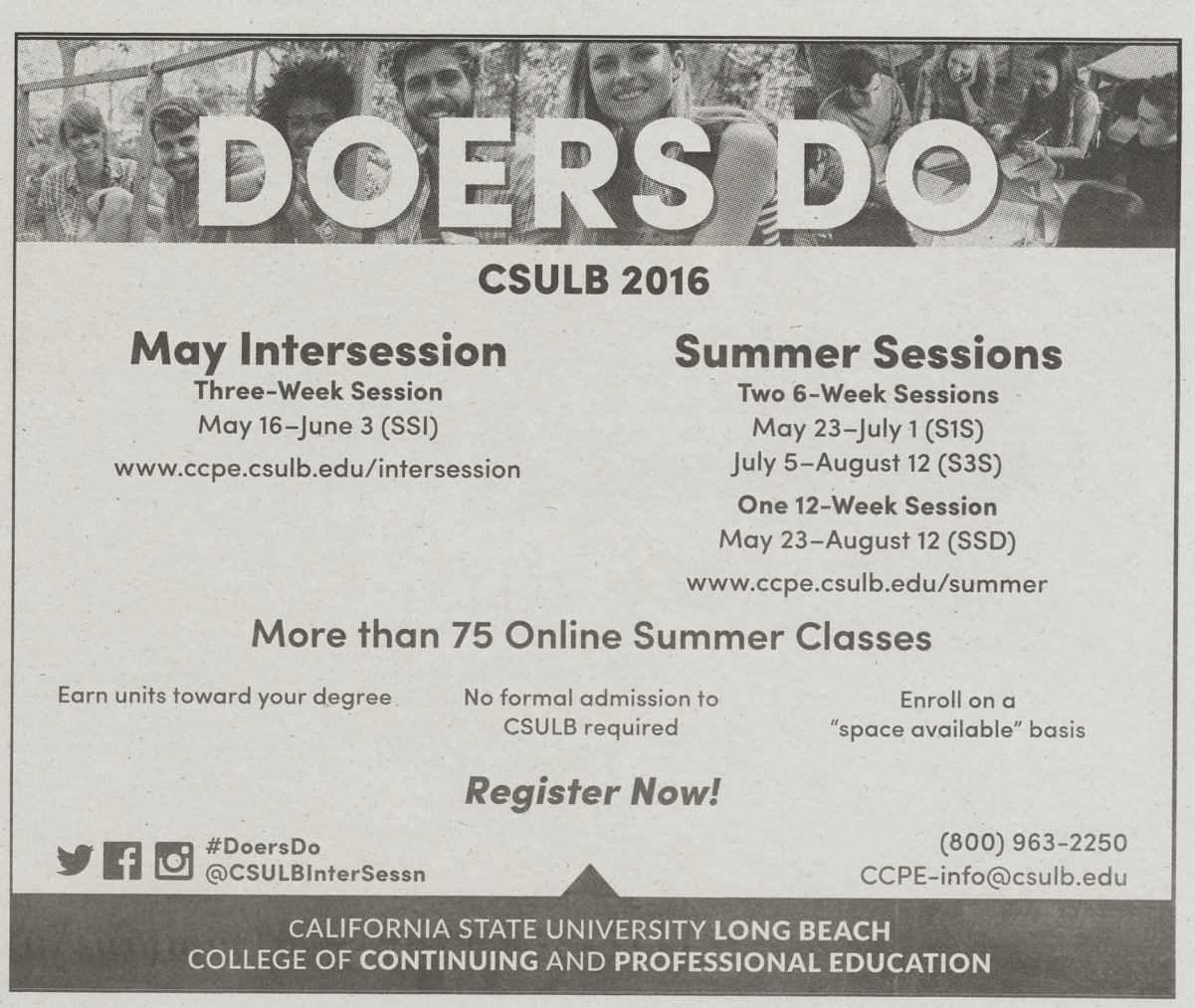
"For my students, they love being able to speak French to someone else that isn't me," Farrokh-Siar said. "So they get excited when they are able to speak to the university students here and find out how taking French is at CSULB and how their taking French furthers their studies."

"We've had fundraisers, cultural festivals, movie nights and bonfires for students to bond but also share their love of the French language," Nayak said.

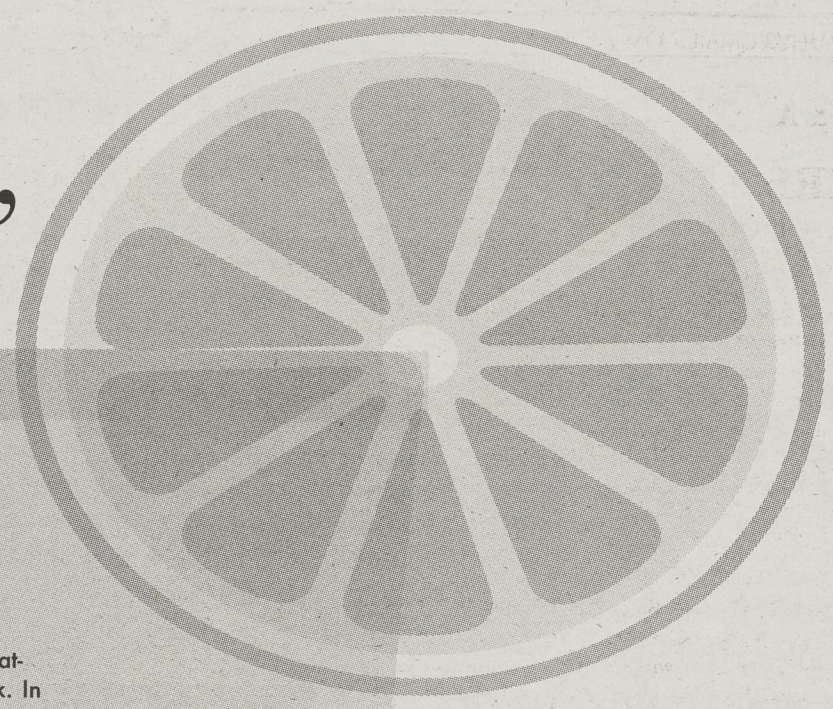
Nayak says that Francophonie helps all different students understand French ideals and the study of the language.

Nayak said, "It helps us think about the world in different ways; it teaches us about our connections, not just with Europe but with the larger French-speaking world which is in Africa, Asia [and] South America."





Forget the tea, I'm drinking 'Lemonade'



Why Beyonce's 'Lemonade' is absolutely sweet.

By Jordan Daniels
Contributing Writer

If you don't know who Beyoncé is by now, you probably aren't living. I mean that both pop culturally and literally.

Beyoncé dropped her latest album, "Lemonade," on Saturday and premiered a visual special on the HBO network. In three words: It. Was. Everything.

Visually stunning, lyrically groundbreaking and poetically mesmerizing from start to finish, the compilation of continuous videos was layers-up-on-layers of societal messages, avant-garde fashion and art. The album was more than just a bunch of music videos; frames became tableaus and those became messages.

All these messages point to one thing – Beyoncé is at the forefront of black female empowerment. She's taking charge of a pop culture that thrives off what blacks put in, but never get credit for.

"Lemonade" truly came at a perfect time because it's further pushing the boundaries of what society has expected for black women. In fact, Beyoncé is shattering a societal glass ceiling, she's at the top of the music industry, she is successful business woman without the need of a man beside her and she is becoming embedded in culture that has only been idolizing men since it began.

It hasn't been until this past year that we've seen women of color, especially black women, get credited and acknowledged for accurate representation of their roles in society. It took how long for Viola Davis to become the first black actress to win an Emmy for a primetime leading role?

"Formation" was culturally important because it was saying two things: Women are equal and black lives are as important as anybody else's. However, her video left me wondering how she was going to follow up this iconic — and what should be historical –- video. Truly, she is the game in the music industry, so how was she going to out-Beyoncé herself?

"Lemonade."

With all the album's videos shot in New Orleans, there is a rich amount of black culture and history being shown. There's appreciation, which is something that we don't see in mainstream media. From outfits to hair to music styles and sounds, there is a consistent, empowering message of "I love my Black."

Take note: these videos were beautiful points of what cultural appreciation, not appropriation, looks like.

Her songs in the videos revolve around chapters labeled after the Kubler-Ross stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Her songs follow these stages lyrically, many of them taking on the rumors of her marital troubles head-on.

She is unapologetic in putting her husband on blast and checking him for the wrong he has done, especially in songs such as "Hold Up" and "Don't Hurt Yourself." The act of acknowledging cheating spouses is something we've seen many artists, especially women, do, yet we shame them for doing so. Society shames women for telling the truth and being transparent. I wouldn't dare ever shame Beyonce, so in the spirit of this women-empowered greatness, let's keep that in mind next time we hear an artist do some diss tracks.

Despite the progressivity of our society, we hardly ever talk about how women make their own money and work for themselves. It's still bathed in taboo for a woman to even think about what she does for herself, unless it's with the help of a man. In the course of "Lemonade," Queen Bey is shattering the notion that women can't be bosses just like men.

In the final moments of "Freedom," we hear an excerpt from Hattie White, Jay-Z's grandmother, which perhaps really ties in the title of the album and encompasses the messages it has into a few lines.

"I had my ups and downs, but I always find the inner strength to pull myself up. I was served lemons, but I made lemonade."

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

Q & A

MYERS

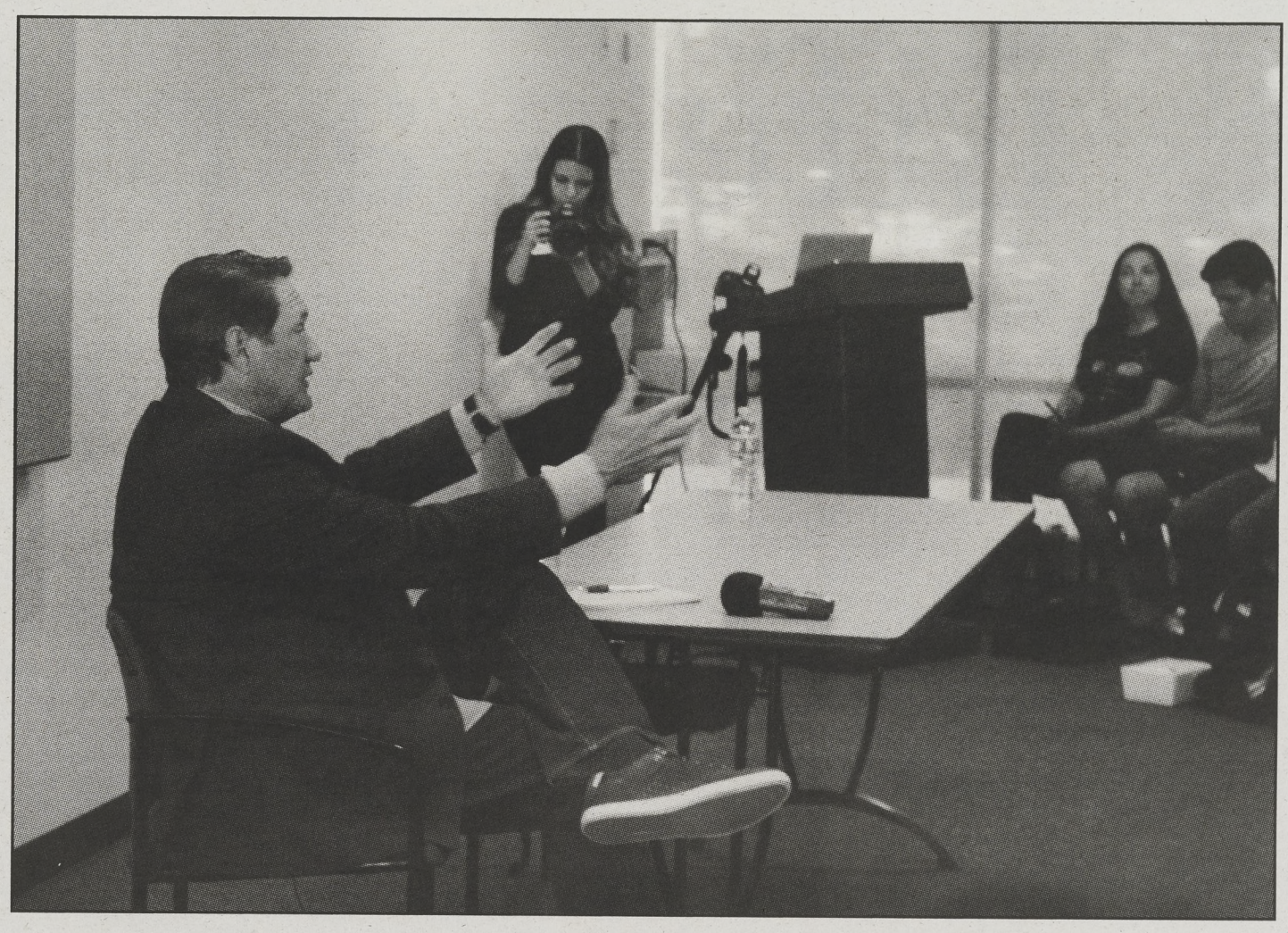
continued from page 8

Why did you decide to come speak with students at Cal State Long Beach?

There are two reasons for that. One is when I was younger, anytime someone came to our school to speak about the things I was interested in, it had an impact. There were people that left impressions about sports and broadcasting and whenever you're young and the more you hear from real people who are the real jobs that is always helpful. And two is a little selfish, I always learned from doing these types of things. You hear what people are asking about the profession, what's important to them, the profession sometimes changes or things in the profession. It's kind of a win-win, they might learn from me and my experience, but I'll take their enthusiasm and their curiosity with me and carry it forward.

What kind of advice do you have for student journalists and public relations students looking to go into the field?

The simple things for any job I always say: show up on time, get along with people and do more than the job is required– and those three things can apply to anything. In broadcasting, I would add to that; versatility and contacts are important and variety. And by versatility, be able to do different types of jobs, for variety have your interests lightning up so if someone says can you write something, can you report on something, can you cover a light story or can you cover a news story, [you can]. That's where some journalism comes in; be aware of the difference. And contacts are important, [having] an internship, getting hands-on experience and also watching people in the business to see what works for you and what doesn't.



Lindsey Maeda | Daily 49er

Myers shared experiences and offered career advice before answering students' questions.

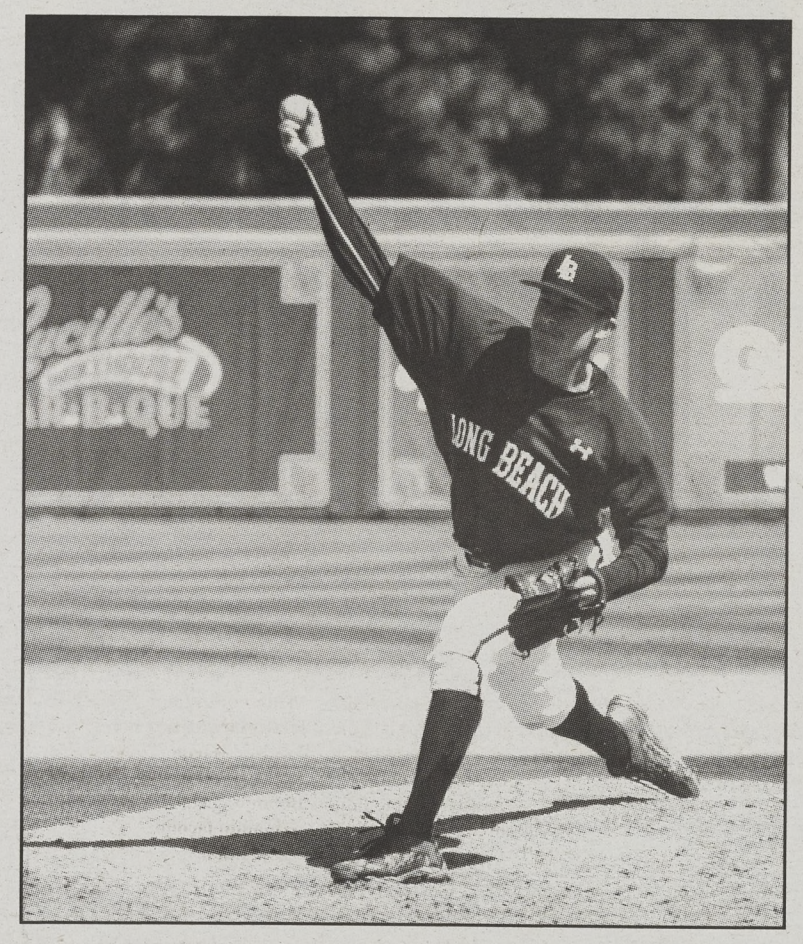
SPORTS PREVIEWS

Who: San Diego State (12-25, 5-10)
When: Tuesday at 6 p.m.
Where: Blair Field

Need to know: Long Beach State (22-16, 6-6) snapped its longest losing streak of the season (four games) with a 10-7 win over UC Riverside on Sunday. If the Dirtbags want to avoid dropping anymore games, they'll have to avoid a second loss to San Diego State this season.

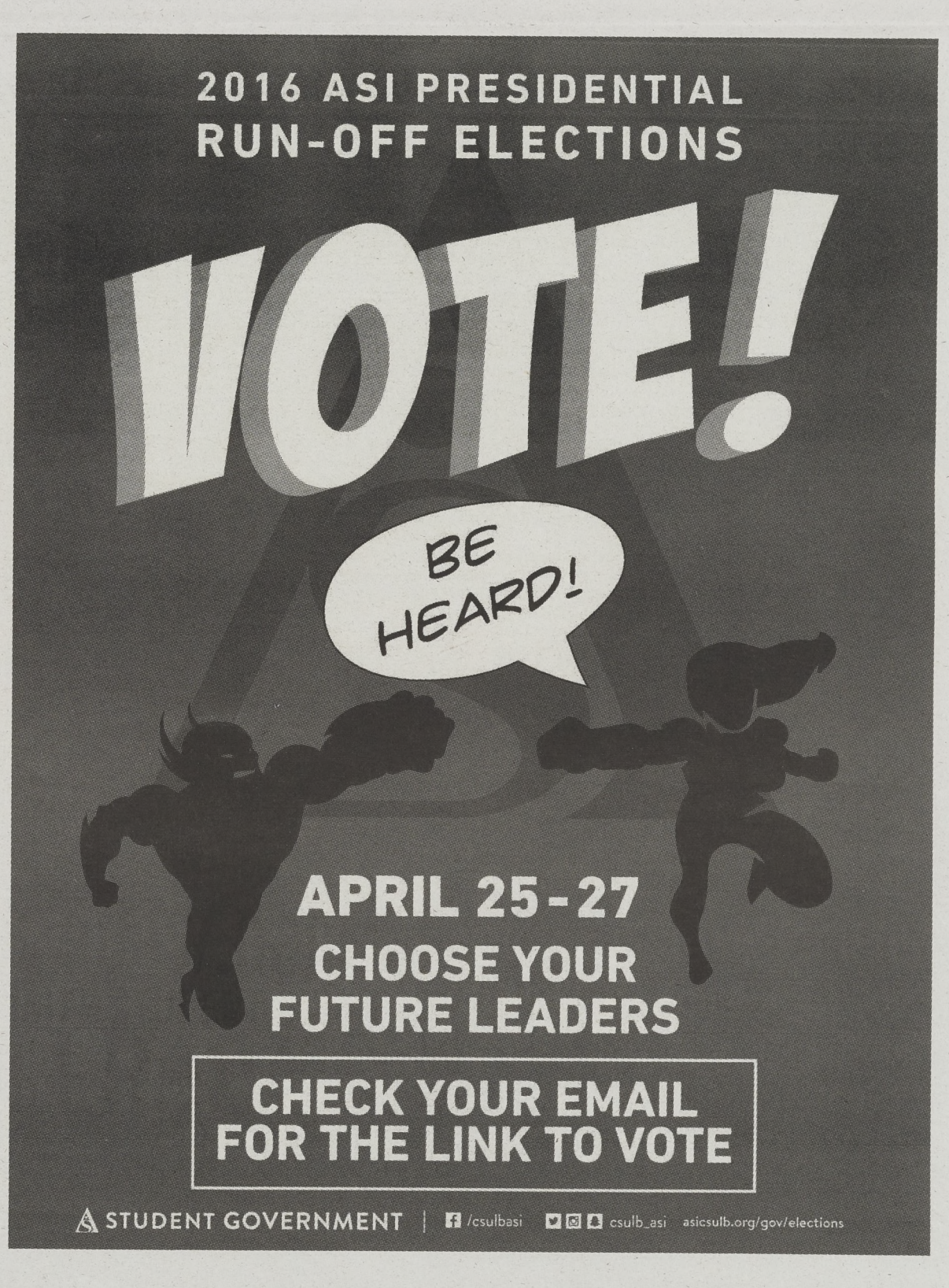
The Aztecs picked up a 6-5 walk-off win in the 12th inning over LBSU on April 5. SDSU also leads the all-time series 82-51-1 against the Dirtbags.

In their last meeting, Aztecs' senior Spencer Thornton went 3 for 5 with an RBI and sophomore Chase Calabuig brought in three runs. Thornton is third on the SDSU roster with a .287 batting average and leads the team with five home runs.



William martin | Daily 49er

Junior Joshua Advocate tosses a pitch during Long Beach State's 7-2 loss against UC Irvine on April 17 at Blair Field.



BASEBALL

Life's a pitch

Former Dirtbag Jack Wheeless talks about his injury and what he is up to now.

By Lisa Williston
Staff Writer

After being hit by a car while running in his hometown of Clovis, California, Jack Wheeless had a rough two years of rehab that led to to the end of his baseball career.

In October of 2013, a car ran a red light through an intersection and hit Wheeless while he was running his usual 6-mile route through his hometown. The impact threw his body up in the air and cracked his pitching arm open.

His surface wounds eventually healed, but when he went back to the doctor in April to get cleared to throw, several X-rays and MRIs revealed he had a torn labrum in his throwing shoulder. The labrum is a piece of cartilage that keeps the shoulder joint in place.

With his arm still injured and healing slowly, Wheeless was unable to play his senior year of high school.

"After his accident he was obviously very limited," said Wheeless' high school coach, Alek Friedman. "He became a player-coach who dedicated himself to mentoring the people around him."

Wheeless started playing baseball when he was 4 years old, but did not take the game seriously until he was in high school. He actually did not like playing the sport, but only stuck with it because he was good. Knowing that he was better than other players his age was his main tool for motivation.

"After I played a lot more I learned that being a pitcher you can control basically if your team wins or not," Wheeless said. "So that's what I like, that pressure, and that's what I miss most."

Once he made the varsity team in high school, Wheeless said he realized he had the opportunity to get a college education out of his skills on the mound, even though he always wanted to play soccer.

Before the accident, he was offered a partial scholarship be a Dirtbag. And, in spite of the injury, the coaches at LBSU still wanted him. After going through two surgeries in the middle of his senior season, Wheeless focused on physical rehab until he arrived at The Beach.

Wheeless said although he had multiple scholarship opportunities at other schools, he felt that LBSU was the most personable and the coaches had a real desire for him to play for them.

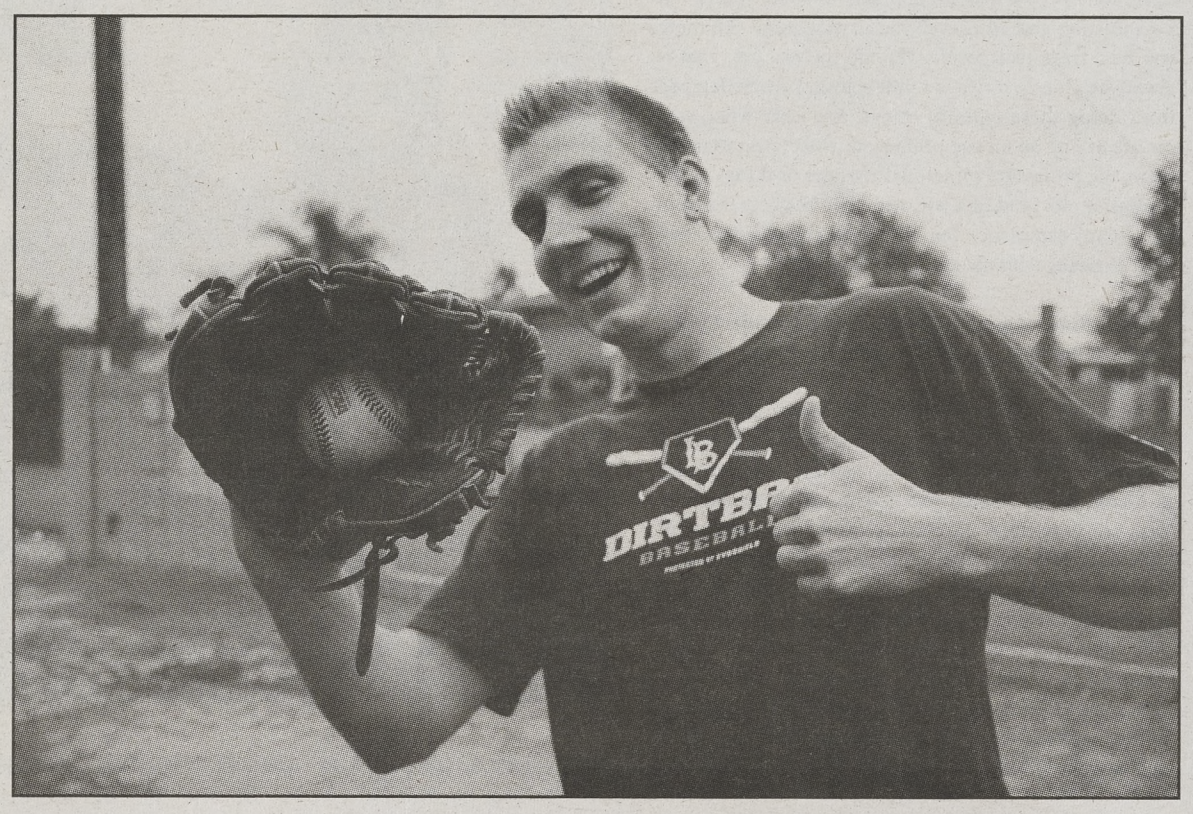
Going into college, Wheeless knew if he were able to play, it would be the last leg of his baseball career. Before he was hurt, he thought there was a chance at playing in the major leagues, but after the injury he said he needed to be more realistic.

"The pain of knowing that I would never be as good as I once was, was constantly on my mind," Wheeless said.

He did not play his freshman year of college, but continued rehab and eventually started the throwing program and training.

His limitations did not stop him from pushing through the practices. Wheeless' former teammate Jacob Hughey said watching him get prepared to pitch was one of the most comical things he'd ever witnessed.

"Every time before Jack pitched, he would down three raw eggs – disgusting – and then do a full Rocky-montage workout right before he went out there," Hughey said.



Photos by Lisa Williston | Daily 49er
Jack Wheeless (above) still attends Cal State Long Beach, even after leaving the Dirtbags. Wheeless' left arm bears a scar (below) that serves as a reminder of the the accident the ended his baseball career two years ago.

When Wheeless was finally healthy enough to play, he was unable to throw at the same level he had before the accident. Because of this, the Dirtbags had to cut him from the team.

Wheeless would have rather the accident never had happened, but he does value what it did for his family. He said that after it happened they got closer.

"It made me a lot more appreciative of life because I never really thought of how easily I could die," Wheeless said.

Wheeless is studying sports broadcasting at Cal State Long Beach and hopes to be either an announcer or sports analyst.

Q & A

Q&A: with Fox Sports broadcaster Chris Myers

NASCAR Sunday and NFL play-by-play announcer talks sports and breaking into the broadcast industry with students at CSULB.

By Will Hernandez
Assistant Sports Editor

Broadcaster and television reporter for Fox Sports Chris Myers took the time to speak to Cal State Long Beach journalism and public relations students on Thursday afternoon inside the USU.

Myers, an employee at Fox Sports since 1998, discussed his career and experience working with celebrity athletes on television and his journey on the radio. After speaking to a room of around 40 people, Myers spoke with the Daily 49er about his favorite moments on the job and the importance of building a network for student journalists going into his industry.

Lindsey Maeda | Daily 49er
Fox Sports broadcaster Chris Myers speaks to a group of Cal State Long Beach students on Thursday inside the University Student Union.

What's been the best sporting event you've covered?

One game was when the Patriots were in the Super Bowl. It was their perfect season and they were facing the Giants and had they won that, they would have finished with a perfect season and New England was winning late, but then of course the Giants came back and won the game. Then I had to interview Bill Belichick after the game. Then I had a situation in college football where Boise State was playing Oklahoma when a player [Ian Johnson], who was one of the heroes, proposed to his girlfriend afterwards. Johnson, who I was interviewing about the game, said he wanted to propose to his girlfriend on national television. So I rushed through that, thinking he maybe forgot, so that stood out. Then there was a moment as a reporter for the Red Sox. We were doing the World Series when the Red Sox finally broke through. I was the first the guy on the field and to interview the players and I'm not a Red Sox fan but for them and their history it was a special moment.

see **MYERS**, page 7